

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, TH
SUBJ: PROPOSED RTG SEMINAR ON U.S. GSP

1. RTG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING A SEMINAR FOR DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. GSP TO BE CONDUCTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF CY 1977.

2. MINCOMMERCE SUGGESTS PARTICIPATION OF 4-5 USG EXPERTS TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE MECHANICS OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCTS FOR THE GSP AND THE PROCESS OF AMENDING THE LIST OF PRODUCTS.

3. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, GSP TYPE SEMINARS WERE CONDUCTED IN BANGKOK BY THE AUSTRALIANS AND JAPANESE AND IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EEC COUNTRIES CONDUCTED TRADE SEMINAR. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED EACH SEMINAR.

4. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW REQUEST FOR 4-5 EXPERTS IS EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN RTG SPONSORED SEMINAR. EMBASSY WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION OF RTG REQUEST. AN AREA WIDE VISIT OF ONE OR TWO OFFICIALS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH DETAILS OF GSP MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. SEMINAR WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY OFFICERS

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 33632 140934Z

AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES. PLEASE ADVISE.

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